than the cut-off frequency, the antenna being provided with means for applying a variable bias to the varactor diodes.

3. (amended) A sea surface antenna comprising a tube of metallic material on a dielectric former, the tube having a longitudinal slot coupled at [or near] its midpoint to a feed line, the slot being bridged by two pluralities of [capacitances] varactor diodes to either side of the feed-point, each plurality being distributed along a respective part of the slot, the length of the antenna being less than 0.25 λ and the diameter of the antenna being less than 0.02 λ, where λ is the free space wavelength at the operating frequency, the antenna being dimensioned so as to operate in an evanescent mode at a resonant frequency less than the cut-off frequency, the antenna being provided with means for applying a variable bias to the varactor diodes.

Claim 6, line 2: delete "5" and insert -- 3 --

R E M A R K S

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention and to distinguish over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Thus, claims 1 and 3 have been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 5 therein. Inasmuch as no new matter